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MOK-A- 32753

Chief, Foreign Division M

17 September 1951

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Operational

Military Ratings for Stay-Behind Agents

1. West Europe defense negotiations are as yet probably not too near agreement on the degree and manner of West German military participation. But the very conversations are giving many of the stay-behind agents cause to dwell again on the prospects of a military career.

2. It should be remembered that our stay-behind personnel are not professional intelligence agents. To the contrary, we have avoided men of intelligence employment history and are building with men whose ideals demand that they enter Western freedom's fight against Communism, and until now, our widow maker's club presented them the only opportunity. Now, men of successful experience in the military can also see place for them somewhere between the Plevan Plan of five to six thousand man units and Blank's Petersburg Plan of twelve divisions of 250,000 men. What greater hopes could these soldiers of the last war have than to be in a German Army with American supplies? Further, aside from the individual wishes, we must face the possibility of attractive recruiting programs (martial music and all) and even drafts. (We are, fortunately, as seen in MOK-A-31155, not restricted to old men and cripples). And certainly our people will not relish sitting quietly by while their comrades gain precedence in furthering military careers.

3. We are wondering then whether Washington is prepared with a policy for giving these men simulated rank and a plan for integrating them into the Western defense military organization where they will be assigned to a stay-behind echelon under our control.

KOB Note to FDM:

1. As the occupation gives way to a Western Defense Army, the indigenous adventuresome types are all looking for something to join. Presently only a few Germans are being accepted into US sponsored guard units but many are anticipating the time when they can stomp around in a German uniform again. With the exception of the 15 group, we are quite sure we have no real militarists. However, we must be ready to answer their questions regarding tie-ins with Western Defense and why

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they shouldn't be transferred to a German sponsored stay-behind effort.

2. We expect that the above will be brought to your attention as a much more specific and pressing problem within five months.

3. Your comments are requested.

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